



NYC:
STOP-AND-FRISK
DOWN
SAFETY
UP



December 2015

NYC: Stop-and-Frisk Down, Safety Up

Stop-and-frisk is at a record low – and New York City is the safest it has been in years.

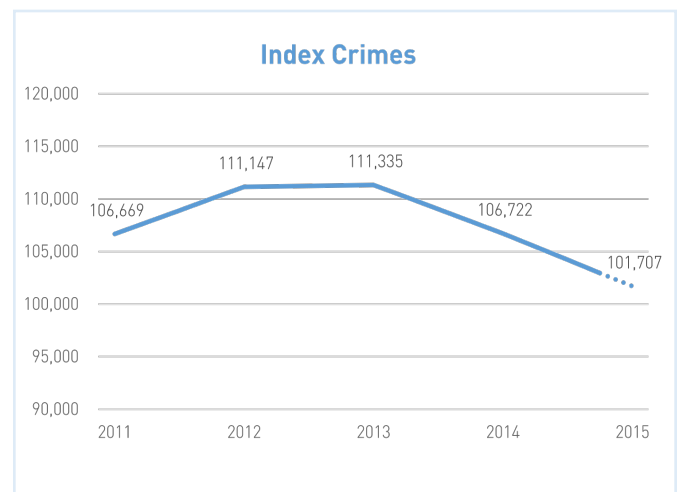
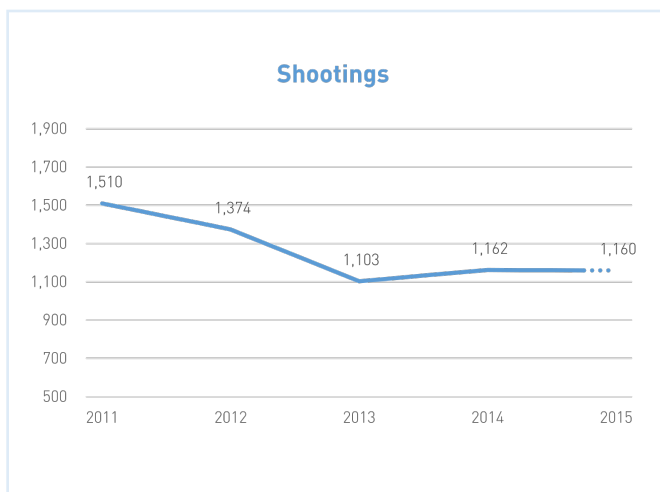
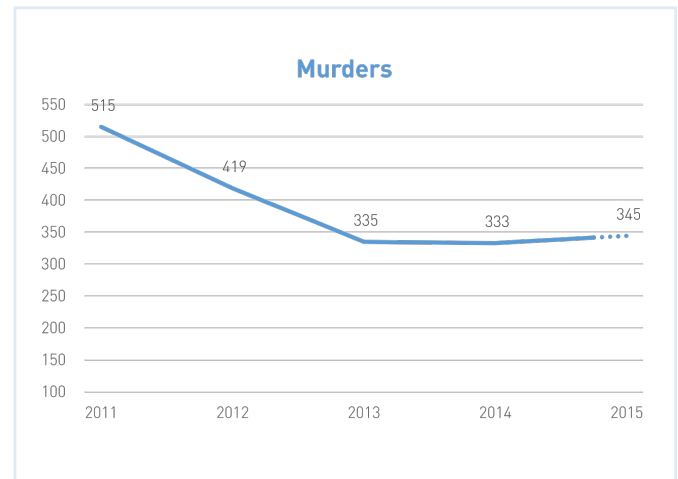
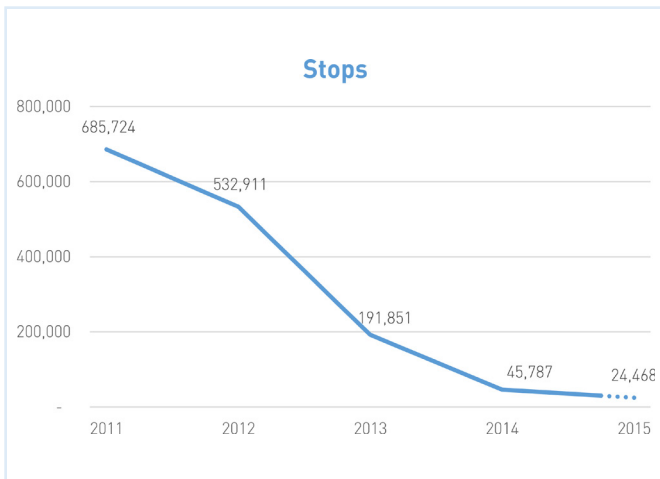
Defenders of the NYPD's massive, abusive and racially discriminatory stop-and-frisk program of the Bloomberg and Kelly era misleadingly claimed for years that the policing tactic was necessary for public safety – despite mounting evidence that stop-and-frisks led to few arrests and fewer weapons, and that nearly nine in ten New Yorkers who were stopped were innocent.¹

Four years later, with stops down over 90 percent from their peak of nearly 700,000 in 2011, New York City crime data effectively dispel any claim that the massive stop-and-frisk program was necessary for public safety.² Across the board serious crimes are significantly or even drastically lower today than they were at the height of the stop-and-frisk regime.

- As stops fell 93 percent between 2011 and 2014, murders fell 35 percent to a recorded low of 333 in 2014. Stops are projected to fall a further three percent this year, and though murders are projected to tick up slightly this year, the number of murders is still 33 percent lower than in 2011.³
- Stop-and-frisk's decline has corresponded with a sharp drop in gun violence – in direct opposition to the NYPD's claim that the tactic was critical for recovering guns. Between 2011 and 2014, shootings fell from 1,510 to 1,162, and, based on current figures, in 2015 they are expected to be down 23 percent from 2011 numbers.⁴
- The seven most serious crimes, or "index crimes" — murder, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, grand larceny and auto theft — remained flat during stop-and-frisk's 93 percent decline between 2011 and 2014. And at this rate, it is reasonable to project that serious crime will be down 5 percent for 2015.⁵

The Data: Crime and Stops Drop between 2011 and 2015

	Stops	Change from 2011	Index Crimes	Change from 2011	Shootings	Change from 2011	Murders	Change from 2011
2011	685,724	-	106,669	-	1,510	-	515	-
2012	532,911	-22 percent	111,147	4 percent	1,374	-9 percent	419	-19 percent
2013	191,851	-72 percent	111,335	4 percent	1,103	-27 percent	335	-35 percent
2014	45,787	-93 percent	106,722	0 percent	1,162	-23 percent	333	-35 percent
2015*	24,468	-96 percent	101,707	-5 percent	1,160	-23 percent	345	-33 percent



The reason it is important to debunk the myth that New York City needs the massive stop-and-frisk program of the Bloomberg and Kelly years is because even at the lower levels of today, stop-and-frisk remains a discriminatory policing tactic that mostly targets innocent people of color, sowing mistrust between New Yorkers and police, routinely violating fundamental rights and causing lasting damage to communities.

Today, an estimated 81 percent of those stopped are found to be totally innocent.⁶ And despite making up just 26 percent of the population in New York City, blacks will be the target of a projected 54 percent of stops by the NYPD in 2015.⁷ Blacks and Latinos combined will be the target of 82 percent of stops.⁸

Although stops continue to target blacks and Latinos, the good news is that the 96 percent drop in stops means that dramatically fewer New Yorkers of color are stopped today. In 2011, blacks were stopped 350,743 times and Latinos were stopped 223,740 times, while in 2015, the NYCLU projects that blacks will be stopped 12,946 times and Latinos will be stopped 7,056 times.⁹ That fewer people of all races are affected by NYPD's stop-and-frisk is a very good thing for New Yorkers, who are no less safe as a result.

Endnotes

¹ See Christopher Dunn, *Stop & Frisk During the Bloomberg Administration 2002-2013*, New York Civil Liberties Union, August 2014. Available at http://www.nyclu.org/files/publications/stopandfrisk_briefer_2002-2013_final.pdf (last visited Dec. 9, 2015).

² The number of stops from 2011 to 2014 is based on the NYCLU's analysis of publicly available stop-and-frisk data. New York Police Department, *The Stop, Question and Frisk Database* (NYPD, 2015) (hereinafter "NYPD Stop-and-Frisk Database"). Available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/analysis_and_planning/stop_question_and_frisk_report.shtml (last visited Dec. 9, 2015). The number of stops in 2015 is based on NYPD quarterly reports obtained by the NYCLU through an open records request, available at <http://www.nyclu.org/content/nypd-quarterly-reports> (last visited Dec. 9, 2015) (hereinafter "Quarterly Stop-and-Frisk Reports"). The projected number of stops through 2015 is estimated by increasing the number of stops from the first three quarters of 2015 by one-third.

³ The number of murders and other serious crimes in New York City are reported by the NYPD through various sources. Each day, the NYPD announces major crimes, including most murders. The NYPD also issues weekly summary statistics by police precinct. Week to week, there is a considerable amount of fluctuation in murders, shootings and serious crimes. For example, during one week in May 2015, there were eight murders, an increase from the five murders that took place during that same week one year before in 2014. See Kelly Burke, Rocco Parascandola and Caitlin Nolan, "Some residents fear bloody summer as murders in New York City up 60% for week to date over same span last year," *New York Daily News*, 25 May 2015. Available at <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/murders-nyc-60-time-year-article-1.2235101> (last visited Dec. 9, 2015). Later in 2015 between June and August, which tend to be the city's most violent months, New York City had the lowest number of murders in two decades. See Josh Dawsey and Pervaiz Shallwani, "New York City Summer is Safest in Years, Records Show," *Wall Street Journal*, 2 Sept. 2015. Available at <http://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-city-summer-is-safest-in-years-records-show-1441241462> (last visited Dec. 9, 2015). In this paper, the number of murders through 2014 is based on NYPD data. See New York Police Department, *Seven Major Felony Offenses* (NYPD, 2014) (hereinafter "Seven Major Felony Offenses"). Available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/downloads/pdf/analysis_and_planning/seven_major_felony_offenses_2000_2014.pdf (last visited Dec. 9, 2015). The projected number of murders for 2015 is derived from CompStat, New York City's crime tracking system, which reports the number of serious crimes that occur on a weekly basis. To calculate projected murders through the end of the year, 2015, the NYCLU increased the number of murders reported by CompStat for the first three quarters of 2015 by roughly one-third. See New York Police Department, *CompStat Report Covering the Week of 9/28/15 Through 10/4/2015* (NYPD, 2015) (hereinafter "CompStat Report October 4, 2015"). Available at <https://github.com/ajschumacher/nypd/blob/master/2015-10-13/cs-en-us-city.pdf> (last visited Dec. 9, 2015).

⁴ For the number of shootings between 2011 and 2013, see Murray Weiss, "Stop-and-Frisk Numbers Continue to Plunge," *DNAInfo.com*, 15 Aug. 2015. Available at <http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20140815/civic-center/chart-stop-and-frisk-numbers-continue-plunge> (last visited Dec. 9, 2015). For the number of shootings from 2014, see New York Police Department, *CompStat Report Covering the Week of 12/22/2014 Through 12/28/2014*. Available at <https://github.com/ajschumacher/nypd/blob/master/2015-01-06/cscity.pdf> (last visited Dec. 9, 2015). To calculate projected shootings through end of the year 2015, the NYCLU increased the number of shootings reported by CompStat for the first three quarters of 2015 by roughly one-third. See *CompStat Report October 4, 2015*, *supra* note 3.

⁵ For the number of index crimes through 2014, see *Seven Major Felony Offenses*, *supra* note 2. To calculate projected index crimes through the end of the year 2015, the NYCLU increased the number of index crimes reported by CompStat for the first three quarters of 2015 by roughly one-third. See *CompStat Report October 4, 2015*, *supra* note 3.

⁶ Innocence is defined as engaging in no unlawful behavior, as evidenced by no subsequent arrest or issuance of a summons after the stop. The number of stops of innocent people in 2015 is based on the NYCLU's analysis of the Quarterly Stop-and-Frisk Reports, *supra* note 2.

⁷ See U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, County Business Patterns, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Census of Governments*. Available at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/3651000.html> (last visited Dec. 9, 2015). See also Quarterly Stop-and-Frisk Reports, *supra* note 2.

⁸ See Quarterly Stop-and-Frisk Reports, *supra* note 2.

⁹ *Id.* See also NYPD Stop-and-Frisk Database, *supra* note 2.